



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

# DIGEST

Internet Edition

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'Courteous Vigilance'

July 2003



## Capitol Graduation

DPS Director Dennis Garrett performs the final inspection of Advanced Basic Class 2003-2 in the lobby of the state capitol building in Phoenix. Twenty-one new officers participated in the June 13 inspection prior to graduation ceremonies. Andrew Shurtz was selected for the Skip Fink Award given to the graduating officer who best exemplifies spirit, excellence and leadership in both academics and overall curriculum.

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Dispatcher, Air Rescue help transplant candidate get to hospital. [Page 13.](#)

## DPS enters into Governor's Efficiency Review process

Gov. Janet Napolitano's Efficiency Review program is not another one of those "do more with less" promotions that frequently force state agencies to terminate worthwhile programs in order to remedy a shrinking budget.

That's how DPS Commander Terry Conner characterizes the governor's Efficiency Review (ER) process, a strategy designed to save the state millions of dollars while, at the same time, improve upon every-day processes offered by each agency within state government.

ER kicked off this spring when the Departments of Transportation, Economic Services and Corrections were mandated to scrutinize their efforts in order to become more pragmatic in their approach to daily business activities.

This summer, it's DPS' turn to step up to the ER plate, and Conner, DPS' agency representative for the review, says the agency is confident that its employees will develop approaches that not only will result in the savings of precious resources, but also produce ideas designed to improve operational processes at DPS.

Conner says he realizes there may be some difficult moments ahead as the Department moves through the process. But, he also remains confident that the agency will meet deadlines established within the ER program parameters.

The first important deadline DPS faces is July 15. At that time, the agency must submit an initial report on those departmental activities being addressed. On Aug. 1, a report is due to the governor on progress the department has made toward her executive order.

On Aug. 15, Conner and his ER team will present their recommendations to the senior executive staff. On Sept. 30, the Department must submit its final report to the Governor.

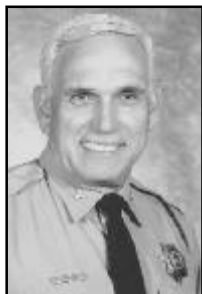
Within the process, the Department is required to review all activities that occur at DPS and to find approaches to make the DPS operation more efficient and cost effective.

"This initiative challenges all state agencies to find practical and sensible ways to improve customer service, reduce costs and eliminate duplication," Conner said.

Although Efficiency Review and Project SLIM have drawn comparisons and may be similar in appearance, Conner said there is one major difference between Napolitano's approach to governmental belt tightening and SLIM (State Long-term Improved Management), an early 1990's program introduced by Gov. Fife Symington that was designed "to identify, evaluate and implement ways to best deliver programs and services of the highest quality at the lowest rate."

"The primary difference between ER and Project SLIM is that

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From Director  
Dennis Garrett's

## Vantage Point

The Efficiency Review initiative mandated by Gov. Janet Napolitano last spring is a program that will capture much attention at DPS during the next few months. Because of a time table that calls for us to meet various deadlines starting July 15 and ending Sept. 30, this will be an accelerated process, but also one, I am sure, that we will be able to maintain.

One advantage we as an agency have is that we are in the second group of state agencies to be involved in this program. Three other departments have already successfully completed the initial stages of this process, so we have a blue print to follow and upon which we can improve.

During this process, we will seek and rely on input put forth by employees at DPS in our efforts to make the department more efficient and effective, keeping in mind that we will not deviate from our mission to protect human life and property through the enforcement of state laws.

This is not another Project SLIM. With SLIM, most of the direction came from outside the Department. With the Efficiency Review initiative, ideas will develop from within the Department, from our own employees.

Clearly, no one knows how to do the job better than someone already doing the job. Employees are the ones closest to the problems. Consequently, employees are the ones closest to the solutions.

We are open to all suggestions. All of us want our agency to operate on a more efficient and effective basis. This is an opportunity to voice your suggestions and ideas to the Executive Staff on how we can do things better. It's critical that employees play a role in this process. Rest assured that your ideas and suggestions will be welcomed.

Because of the Efficiency Review initiative, this agency is going to change. Employee input will play a major role in directing DPS through this transformation. You have a voice both in your future as well as the Department's; it's a voice that will result in building a stronger and more efficient Department.

*(Editor's Note: An in-depth story about the Efficiency Review process begins on [page one](#) in this month's Digest.)*

## Efficiency ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SLIM involved people from outside state government making recommendations concerning present and future business operations within all state agencies, including DPS," Conner said.

"The Efficiency Review process, however, is internally driven and employee oriented. It affords all employees at DPS an opportunity to participate. There are always alternatives in the way we go about our everyday business. And, we also know there are ways of improving the things we do."

In order to generate employee participation, Conner has put together a focus group with representatives from each division at DPS as well as the Director's Office.

Group members are Terri Laurel, Agency Support Division, ext. 2397; Lt. Terry Azbill, Criminal Investigations, 520-746-4661 (Tucson); Lt. Karl Kjellstrom, Highway Patrol, ext. 2873; Commander Jeff Resler, Criminal Justice Support Division, ext. 2089; and Lt. Terry DeBoer, Director's Office, ext. 2422.

"These Division representatives will be points of contact for employees wanting to present their suggestions," Conner said.

As part of the ER process, this group conducted a series of town hall-type meetings in June and early July seeking input from employees on "how we can do things differently and with more efficiency."

Concurrent with the "town hall" meetings, a cyber link to the Department's web page was developed offering employees another avenue to present their ideas.

"For each recommendation that we develop, we must quantify in terms of dollars the money that would be saved, and what we would achieve with these savings," Conner said. "It might be a one-time savings. It might be an annualized savings or it might be a savings that is a cost avoidance. Whatever we accomplish has to be quantified and measurable."

During this process, Conner said that each Division will be asked to provide two "quick hits" that could be implemented within a 30- to 90-day time frame.

"Obviously, some things will take time to implement, so we are looking into areas where some cost-saving measures can be implemented immediately," Conner said. "Some, such as energy savings at new departmental buildings and fleet reduction, have already been implemented.

"Some items to be considered could be legislative in nature and would require legislation to change. Others might be organizational or procedural and can be handled within the agency. Others may require cooperation among other state agencies.

"We are facing some pretty tight deadlines, but when we are finished, our agency will be operating more efficiently."

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Employees are invited to submit story ideas or stories for publication. Stories or story ideas may be submitted to *The Digest* by mail, EMS or Telephone (602-223-2313).

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## Alison born while DPS officer is in Iraq

### When Steve Kafton returns, he will see daughter for first time

Although the war in Iraq continues, most of its focus has diminished, frequently relegated to the inside pages of a newspaper or appearing as the third or fourth lead story on a national or local television newscast.

But for Sandra Kafton, 28, the war in Iraq rages on and will until her 31-year-old husband, DPS Officer Steve Kafton, returns home and holds the couple's first child, the daughter he has never seen.

Alison Elizabeth was born April 18 in Tucson, almost two months after the Nogales-based Highway Patrol officer reported for active duty with the Arizona National Guard. After the 855<sup>th</sup> Military Police Co., based in Phoenix, was activated, Kafton and his fellow soldiers headed for Fort Bliss in El Paso for a few weeks of advanced training before leaving for Iraq where he has been since March.

Both Sandra and Steve knew such an assignment was forthcoming, but both hoped that the separation would come after the birth of their first child.

Since his departure, Sandra has had minimal contact with her husband.

"I have heard very little from him," Sandra said. "I know he is in Iraq, but I don't know where, nor am I sure what he is doing and I have no idea when he might return. His official orders call for 365 days of active duty. But, I know it could be more, or it could be less. It's impossible to predict."

After the birth of the 7-pound, 11-ounce Alison, Sandra said the first couple of weeks without Steve were quite difficult.

"But things are much better now," Sandra said. "I have had a lot of support from my family and the other officers and their families. I can't thank those in District 8 enough for supporting me by collecting and delivering baby supplies like diapers and baby wipes."

"When I became pregnant, we both were really excited. But, when it became apparent that we would be going to war, we were pretty concerned because we knew Steve would probably be gone when I delivered."

On April 17, the day before Alison's induced birth, Sandra talked via telephone to Steve in Iraq.

"So he knew when Alison was going to be born beforehand," Sandra said. "He was very excited about it. I have sent some pictures which he has enjoyed and appreciated. The pictures, however, took a while to reach him. Because his unit moves around so much, it is tough for the mail to catch up with him."



**LITTLE ALISON  
KAFTON A FEW DAYS  
AFTER BIRTH**

Sandra says the separation remains difficult and relishes the day Steve returns to their home in Rio Rico and resumes his job as Highway Patrol officer, something he has done in the Nogales area for slightly more than three years (*Editor's Note – Steve's 4-year anniversary date with the Department was June 27*).

"The lack of contact at times is hard to deal with, but he is doing something he feels needs to be done," Sandra said. "He was a little upset with the timing of his call up, but at the same time he was relieved when he finally received his orders to report. For so long, we didn't know when he was going to leave, and the uncertainty was driving him up a wall. He certainly didn't want to miss Alison's birth."

Sandra said Steve isn't the only one in his National Guard company facing similar hardships. "I have been told that there are

19 others whose wives were expecting when the 855<sup>th</sup> was activated," she said.

She said she sent Steve some pictures of their first child, but it really doesn't capture Alison's warmth and personality. Photos, she says, only heightens the imagination of what awaits once Alison's father returns to the United States.

"I know he won't be here this summer," Sandra said. "Hopefully, he'll be home for Christmas. That would be great."

For Steve, what better Christmas present is there than to be home with your wife and holding your first child for the very first time.

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Sandra said Steve would like to hear from his friends at DPS. His mailing address is:  
SSG Steven Kafton  
855<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company  
APO, AE 09302-1340

### Merit System Council in new location

The Law Enforcement Merit System Council (LEMSC) office recently moved from Suite 375 on the third floor of the DPS state headquarters building in Phoenix to Suite 235 on the second floor of the same building.

The move took place over three days in early June. LEMSC services were interrupted only for a short period of time due to the movement of telephones, computers and office furniture.

DPS Commander Coy Johnston, LEMSC business manager, said the new LEMSC office has roughly the same square footage as the former office, but that the new office is configured differently.

The move took place, Johnston said, because extra office space became available on the second floor of the headquarters building at the same time other DPS entities needed extra office space on the third floor.

Prior to the recent move, the LEMSC office had been located in Suite 375 for about 10 years, Johnston said.





CHRIS RIDER

## HIPAA results in some information problems

DPS management has learned during the past few months that some DPS officers have had problems when trying to obtain "extent of injuries" information and other health related information from certain medical centers during their investigations.

Hospital and medical center personnel cite the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) as the reason for not sharing medical information with officers, a DPS spokesperson said.

Ana Rosa Velarde, a Human Resource analyst at DPS who was recently appointed the Department's Health Information confidentiality officer, said there are provisions in the HIPAA law regarding the need to share certain medical information for law enforcement purposes.

She added that attorneys from the state and county attorney's offices are working with attorneys from the Arizona Hospital and Health Care Association (AzHHA) to come to an agreement on the interpretation of HIPAA, and protocols to be followed in regards to releasing information.

Lisa Stelly, an attorney with the Arizona Attorney General's Office who is assigned to DPS, is a member of the group. Velarde said it is expected that the group will publish a form of guidelines regarding this issue in the near future.

In the meantime, Velarde said that Stelly is encouraging DPS officers to contact her if they are having difficulty obtaining health information from hospitals to contact her.

Stelly may be reached at 602-223-2406 or 602-542-8529.

## Cancer takes life of Sgt. Chris Rider

Sgt. Chris S. Rider, 57, whose career at DPS spanned nearly 27 years, died May 21 at his Phoenix home following a lengthy battle with cancer.

Sgt. Rider, badge no. 1937, retired from the Department April 21.

He began his DPS career on Oct. 3, 1976, at the DPS Cadet Training Academy in Phoenix. Upon graduation from the academy, he was assigned to Keams Canyon on the Hopi Reservation. On Nov. 8, 1981, he transferred to Springerville.

On Jan. 30, 1983, he was promoted to sergeant and assigned to Holbrook. The following year, he returned to Springerville where he remained until September 1995 when he was assigned to the Department's newly-created gang unit – GITEM – as supervisor for Navajo and Apache counties.

He returned to his Highway Patrol squad in Springerville in March 1997 and remained in that position until transferring to DPS state headquarters in Phoenix about a year ago. In Phoenix, he handled a variety of administrative responsibilities mostly in the Training and Management Services Bureau.

During his career, his squad received a Director's Unit Citation in 1988. In 1993 his district, District 11, received the Northern Division and Highway Patrol Bureau District of the Year Award. In 1993, he also was a recipient of a Suggestion Award for his officer-safety proposal to disable the passen-

ger-side interior light in patrol vehicles.

In 1994, his squad received the Northern Division's and Highway Patrol Bureau's Squad of the Year Award.

One of the most challenging times in his career occurred during the copper miners' strike in Clifton-Morenci. For his actions in containing rioting strikers during the 1984 Cinco de Mayo celebrations, the Michigan native received a Letter of Commendation from Director Ralph T. Milstead.

## Al Sterkenburg dies May 28 in Prescott

L. Allen "Al" Sterkenburg, who retired from the Department as a lieutenant and a Highway Patrol district commander in 1991, passed away May 28 in Prescott.

Lt. Sterkenburg, 61, badge no. 325, started his career with the Arizona Highway Patrol on Aug. 25, 1965, and retired Sept. 30, 1991, with 26 years of service to the Department.

His first appointment following the academy came in January 1966 when he arrived in Kingman. That was followed by an assignment to background investigations in the North Central Zone, and a transfer in November 1972 to the Uniform Division.

In January 1973, he moved from the Uniform Division into the Emergency Medical Services Division. Later that year, he was promoted in place to sergeant. In May 1975, the Sparta, Mich., native transferred from EMS to the Highway Patrol district office in Mesa.

Two years later, he was promoted to lieutenant and transferred from the Mesa District 11 office to Highway Patrol state headquarters in Phoenix.

In April 1978, Lt. Sterkenburg, an avid outdoorsman, transferred to Prescott where he became District 12 commander, a position he held at the time of his retirement.

During his career, he received a commendation from DPS Director Ralph T. Milstead for the "courageous" actions he took to help quell a May 4, 1984, riot involving copper miners in Clifton-Morenci.

Lt. Sterkenburg received the Department's Meritorious Service Award in connection with an incident on May 5, 1988, where he assisted a fellow DPS officer in an effort to save the life of a man who was suffering a coronary.

Prior to the Department, Sterkenburg, a graduate of Santa Cruz Valley Union High

## Services conducted for Dean Couch

A memorial service for retired DPS Officer F. Dean Couch was conducted June 6 in Kingman.

Officer Couch, 66, who passed away May 29 at the Kingman Regional Medical Center, retired from DPS Dec. 31, 1983, after a 23-year law enforcement career that began and ended in Kingman area.

A native of Buckeye, Officer Couch entered the U.S. Marine Corps after he graduated from Buckeye Union High School. After the Marines, Officer Couch, badge no. 139, joined the Arizona Highway Patrol in July 1960.

He is survived by his companion of 10 years, Jean Goujon; son, Brannon; father, Henry; brother, Terry; and a sister, Susan. Two grandchildren also survive.

His mother, Pauline, preceded him in death.

The family requests contributions to the Associated Highway Patrolmen of Arizona (AHPA).

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## Retirees hit the road to visit ill friends

### A cup of coffee goes a long way in making someone's day

Sometimes it doesn't take more than a cup of coffee to make someone's day.

That was the purpose behind a couple of informal coffee get-togethers organized by the Coalition of DPS Retirees in an effort to uplift the spirits of some seriously ill retirees.

For these DPS retirees and others, their physical well being simply isn't what they would like it to be and that distresses those deeply involved with the Coalition. Normally, when the Coalition receives word that "one of their own" is having a rough go at it, the Coalition sends a personalized card of encouragement hoping to uplift the spirits of this fellow retiree.

Although a card is nice and appropriate, the membership felt that there was something more they could do in order to boost the spirits of those whose health has taken a turn for the worse.

"During an informal discussion at a board meeting, an idea surfaced that it would be 'neat' to go visit some of these retirees, show them that we do care about them and haven't forgotten them," said retired Lt. Col. Larry Thompson who serves as the Coalition vice chairman.

With the support of Coalition President J.R. Ham and the Coalition board, the idea of "meeting over coffee" became a reality May 9 as some seven DPS retirees, including Ham and Thompson, made arrangements for a trip to Kingman and a "cup of coffee" with Roscoe Baker, Jack "Snoopy" Schwarz and Dean Couch.

Retired DPS Lt. John Tibbetts, former Highway Patrol District 1 commander in Kingman, took care of the arrangements. The Department chipped in by providing a van to transport seven Coalition members to Kingman from Phoenix. Once in Kingman, the seven rendezvoused with another 13 Kingman-area DPS retirees who together visited the three ailing retirees at a Kingman restaurant.

"I thought we had a pretty good response," Thompson said. "Roscoe, Snoopy and Dean were really tickled to see us and we certainly enjoyed spending some time with them. It was pretty much a spur of the moment thing, but it worked out well."

The three also received Coalition and DPS mementos from the group.

A short time after the Kingman "java jaunt," Coalition members then met with another DPS retiree, Ray Carson, for coffee in Gilbert.



#### Honored guest

During a coffee with several DPS retired officers, retired Sgt. Ray Carson (left) received a ball cap and pin from the Coalition of DPS Retirees. "Pinning" the retired sergeant is retired Major Ernie Johnson. The group met and exchanged stories at a Gilbert restaurant.

"Because of his health, Ray had pretty much dropped off our radar screen," Thompson said. "His e-mail quit working and we couldn't reach him by phone. Somehow, Thad Curtis in Ajo heard we were looking for Ray and he called us and informed us about Ray's whereabouts."

Thompson said a few days after they met with Carson in Gilbert, the retired officer returned to the Alpine area and is now under hospice care.

"It's fun meeting with these guys, but it's also very sobering," Thompson said. "Dean Couch passed on (story page 4) shortly after our visit while the others remain very seriously ill. But, it's a good feeling to know that we were able to make their day a touch brighter."

After each gathering, Thompson said

many other retirees and current employees indicated that they also would have attended the coffees if they had known about them.

"They are pretty informal get-togethers," the retired lieutenant colonel said. "When we get word about a retiree who needs some extra encouragement, I put out a notice on our e-mail list, there's about 300 members on that list. Then we set a date and meet."

Thompson added that current DPS officers in the DROPS program also are considered official retirees and are eligible to join the Coalition.

Those interested in further information about the Coalition can contact J.R. Ham, Thompson or Betty Gallery. Ham can be contacted toll free at 888-711-2778 while Thompson can be reached at [larrytaz@w3az.net](mailto:larrytaz@w3az.net). Gallery, executive assistant of the Highway Patrol Division, can be contacted at ext. 2651.



## Facilities striving to get Tucson Crime Lab on building block

If it was up to Carl Tornambe, the physical makeup of today's Tucson headquarters complex would become a relic of the past, the sooner the better.

The Facilities Section manager and staff have a three-year plan on board which, if implemented, would see the construction of a new Southern Crime Laboratory, followed by the building of a new operations building and the future renovation of today's Tucson headquarters building.

A schematic design also has all three buildings footprinted on the same 8-acre parcel of land that is home to today's Tucson headquarters building.

As it stands presently, Tornambe and his staff, thanks to a federal grant, have construction documents in hand for a new two-story crime laboratory for the Tucson area. Unfortunately, the money isn't there today to build the new \$11.4 million two-story complex which will feature 42,000 square feet in crime lab floor space.

"The Tucson crime lab is the number one issue in our capital improvement plan for '05

legislation," Tornambe said. "It's understood that in times of budget constraints, this will be difficult to fund. However, as an agency, we need to be as creative as possible in our efforts to secure funds for this project. It would be a shame to see these completed construction documents sitting on a shelf for any extended period of time."

"We are at the point now that we could advertise for contractor bids tomorrow if there was funding for the new crime lab," said Tom Heideman, Facilities supervisor, who worked with the architectural firm DLR Group in developing the documents for the proposed Tucson crime lab.

The construction documents are the byproduct of a \$1 million federal grant the Scientific Analysis Section received last year. With that \$1 million, the DLR Group provided the Department with a schematic design for all three buildings and construction documents for the crime lab.

If built, the new crime lab would resemble the Central Crime Laboratory in Phoenix. It would feature two pent houses to capture

and handle toxic fumes with office space on the first floor and labs on the second. There also would be allotted space for Property and Evidence facilities.

"It would be a three-year process to complete everything," Tornambe said. "If the Department is able to obtain the support it needs, we will get this done. I know there are many people, from within and outside state government, who would like to see a state-of-the-art DPS headquarters complex in Tucson. We are trying to be very creative in securing funding for this project."

Heideman said the overhaul of the Tucson operational complex is a three-year project. "We would like to see crime lab construction begin in 2005, with the headquarters building built in 2006 and the renovation of the existing headquarters building scheduled for 2007," Heideman said.

Cost of the proposed two-story headquarters building is estimated at slightly more than \$10 million and would provide 48,000

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## Fiscal year 2003 proved to be very busy time for DPS Facilities

Fiscal year 2003 proved to be very busy for the Facilities Section.

During that July-through-June time period, Facilities participated in the completion of at least 70 projects which ranged from the remodeling of office space at DPS state headquarters to the moving of an area office from Camp Verde to Heber.

There also was the purchase of a new 1440-square-foot double-wide modular office that was positioned next to an existing structure that serves as an area office for the Highway Patrol officers assigned to Metro East.

Facilities Supervisor Ted Dick said the 1440-square-foot double wide is similar to the structure installed last year at District 11 headquarters in Globe.

"This \$120,000 project also included some minor renovation of the existing 1500-square-foot office at the Mesa site," Dick said. "This facility now provides adequate space for six squads and their respective sergeants."

Dick said the Metro East office further allows for easy access to area freeways, adding that with assistance from the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Department was able to complete onsite parking lot improvements.

Late in the fiscal year, Facilities moved

the Law Enforcement Merit System Council business office from the third floor to the second floor of the state headquarters building. This move, said Facilities Bureau Chief Carl Tornambe, allows for the expansion of the Highway Patrol Division office space.

LEMSC assumed space vacated by Research and Planning which moved into the Training and Management Services Bureau suite of offices on the second floor, southwest wing of the headquarters building. The LEMSC business office is now located on the second floor in the northeast wing of the Headquarters building.

Once the Highway Patrol expansion is completed by the end of this summer, the Digest will expand its office space by occupying a second floor office vacated by the Highway Patrol.

Safety and Loss, which shared office space with Research and Planning, will have its own suite of offices next to the LEMSC business office, Tornambe said.

Although it sounds like a relatively easy project to complete, Dick said the replacement of flooring in the Computer Center was quite difficult because of the timing and logistics involved.

"While replacing the flooring, the Computer Center had to remain operational," Dick said. "This meant we had to move equip-

ment and personnel in phases and return them in phases. The original flooring system was more than 20 years old. Due to the condition of floor panels and concerns regarding a deteriorated support system, the previous floor posed a hazard to both personnel and computer equipment."

Dick said all work was completed in June, far ahead of schedule and significantly under the \$150,000 budgeted through RICO funding.

"When ADOT moved into a new facility in Cottonwood leaving their Camp Verde office, we moved into that building and made it an area office," Tornambe said. "We then moved our former office building in Camp Verde to Heber."

Another Facilities project provided some space relief for Property and Evidence in Flagstaff.

This project, Tornambe said, involved moving numerous items from Property and Evidence into two land-sea containers. This was done so that high-density shelving could be installed within the Flagstaff Property and Evidence facility.

Once the shelving was installed, property items were returned. The two land-sea containers that were purchased remain on site and serve as containers for seized marijuana.

## Civilian reserve says DPS assignments help him in county job

Throughout the past year, the *Digest* has featured a number of people who are members of the DPS Reserve Program.

The features were done to introduce DPS employees to some who generously volunteer their time to the agency for absolutely no monetary compensation.

Many of the reserves not only put themselves in harm's way without monetary compensation, but they also do so while succeeding in their full-time jobs and meeting family obligations.

This month's featured reserve, Brian Novotny, whose brother Mike is a DPS reserve sergeant, is no exception.

He has been a civilian reserve with DPS for nine years and has volunteered countless hours of his time to the agency.

The long-time Phoenix resident decided to become a civilian reserve with DPS while pursuing a criminal justice degree at Arizona State University in the early 90's.

"While a student at ASU, I couldn't think of a better way to learn about my field of study than to become a reserve for a law enforcement agency," said Novotny, adding that he also joined the DPS reserve program so that he could network with people in the criminal justice community.

So far, Novotny said he has no regrets about becoming a civilian reserve.



BRIAN NOVOTNY

"After many years as a reserve, I have been able to help both the public and the Department while staying current on new laws and various criminal justice issues," Novotny said.

Novotny said many of the things he has learned at DPS have helped him succeed in his full-time job with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office where he supervises paralegals assigned to the agency's Sex Crimes

and Gang Unit.

Novotny, who has been with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office for about four years, and his staff help prosecutors, detectives and case agents prosecute criminal cases by performing a variety of essential tasks.

For example, Novotny and his staff help prepare discovery and other materials for trial, obtain witness interviews, and perform legal research and legal writing.

Prior to his current occupation, he was an insurance fraud investigator for Liberty Mutual Insurance.

As a civilian reserve with DPS, Novotny spends most of his volunteer hours with the agency as a motorist assist driver on the Beeline Highway. In this capacity, he has been able to help stranded motorists get back on the road. He also helps DPS officers with accident scenes, traffic control and DUI details.

Before taking on additional responsibilities at the county attorney's office, Novotny frequently volunteered some 20 to 30 hours per month with most of that time being served on weekends or holidays.

When not working for the county attorney's office or helping DPS, Novotny says he enjoys spending time with his family and playing golf.

## DPS reserves participate in Roosevelt Lake public awareness detail

Several DPS District 11 reserve officers recently participated in a special enforcement detail on the state highways near Roosevelt Lake.

The 5-hour daytime detail, which occurred May 18, was part of a reserve program effort to qualify for grant funding through the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority (AATA).

Brian Novotny, a civilian reserve from District 11, helped organize the event and obtain informational items for participating officers to distribute to motorists. Novotny said the detail, which was designed to deter vehicle theft by saturation patrol and public information dispersal, was extremely successful because officers were able to make a large number of contacts.

Novotny, who usually works S.R. 87 as a motorist assist driver, also distributed informational packets to motorists during the detail at a special DPS booth he established at an area rest stop.

The AATA and several other auto theft prevention organizations provided the reserves with most of the materials distributed during the detail. The materials were educational in nature and contained facts about

auto theft in addition to tips on how to prevent auto theft.

Novotny said the most popular item reserves distributed to motorists during the detail were applications to participate in the Watch Your Car Program.

Drivers who complete applications get a window sticker that tells officers to pull their car over any time it is on the road between 1 and 5 a.m., peak hours for stealing cars. Officers will also pull the car over if it gets within close range of the U.S./Mexico border.

Novotny said that more than 200 Watch Your Car Program applications were distributed by reserve officers during the detail.

Some of the Watch Your Car Program applications, Novotny said, were given to law enforcement officers from other states who had never heard of the program. These officers were impressed with the program and were going to present it to management at their respective agencies in hopes of starting a similar program in their states.

District 11 reserves plan to hold several more similar details this summer in order to obtain more statistical activity for their grant proposal.

If the reserves are successful in obtain-

ing grant funding, Novotny said they will use the financing to improve their resources and purchase much needed equipment.

The most recent detail consisted of four reserve officers, one civilian reserve, two full-time officers, and Lt. Larry Scarber, District 11 commander.

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## A job well done

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### Ted Dick, Facilities supervisor

For the past six months, I have had the pleasure to work with Robert Stephens on the Heber project. Mr. Stephens is very professional and exact at what he does. He always kept me advised of what was going on, worked very hard to make deadlines and stretched a budget to make things work.

Several contractors who only spoke to him on the phone told me that they were impressed by his friendliness and professionalism. Please pass my appreciation onto Mr. Stephens for a job well done.

**Sgt. Ken Hawkins**  
District 3, Heber

## Breast cancer among the most frightening, but it can be beat

Breast cancer is one of the most frightening diseases people face today, yet many women do not know enough about normal breast development and the accompanying physiological changes, according to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's The Power of a Promise.

Breast tissue, fat, nerves, veins, arteries and connective tissue compose mature breasts in a system of lobules and ducts, similar to that of a bunch of grapes, which produce milk and deliver it to the nipple when a woman is breast-feeding.

These lobules shrink and decrease during menopause, leaving the breast with a larger amount of fat which may enhance the effectiveness of mammography, according to the report.

Normally in the life cycle, the report says, cells create new tissue by dividing and replacing older cells which have died. Cancer occurs when the older cells do not die but form a tumor, the report explains, adding that the cancer cells deprive the body part of its nutrients and may travel to and invade other organs via the blood stream and lymphatic system.

Breast cancer advances this way with 80 percent of the cases developing in the ducts and the rest in the lobules, the report states. If the abnormal cells do not leave the ducts or lobules, they are generally termed precancerous, the report points out.

However, if the abnormal cells reach the tissue surrounding the ducts and/or lobules, the cancer is called invasive, the report explains, adding that treatment of the cancer is usually more successful if it has not invaded the lymph nodes or other organs.

Because a number of other breast diseases, such as cysts and calcifications, produce symptoms similar to those of breast cancer, additional tests or even a biopsy may be required to accurately diagnose the disease, the report adds.

Breast cancer occurrence in the United States, which has increased about one percent per year since the 1940's, has recently leveled because of improved screening which has led to earlier and more successful treatment, the report points out.

Some risk factors for breast cancer cannot be avoided such as family history, breast density, or just aging, the report notes; but some risk factors, among them diet, exercise, and alcohol use, can be minimized by the individual.

A discussion of risk and non-risk factors, including genetics, is available at the

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 15](#)



**Retired DPS Sgt. Shirley Hutter**

## Retired DPS Sgt. Hutter says she's doing well, feeling great after battling cancer

Seven years ago, while employed as an officer at DPS, Shirley Hutter discovered that she had a small lump in one of her breasts. Hutter, who had been very healthy her entire life, was extremely frightened upon making the discovery.

After going to her doctor for further medical evaluation and testing, however, Hutter was told that her particular lump was not cancerous and that there was nothing to worry about.

She was extremely relieved by the news and was comforted even more when she learned that most breast lumps found in women do not turn out to be cancerous.

Just to be safe, though, Hutter continued to have mammogram tests every six months.

Each time, the results showed that she did not have breast cancer.

About two years after learning to live with the supposedly "harmless" lump in her breast, Hutter received a promotion to sergeant.

The promotion, of which Hutter was extremely proud, required her to give up her job in the Department's Criminal Investigations Division and head back to the Highway Patrol as a "road" sergeant.

Because she was "working the road" again as a result of the promotion, Hutter

started wearing a bullet proof vest again on a daily basis.

Amazingly, the new bulletproof vest she began wearing would end up playing a near-miraculous role in possibly saving her life.

The vest never stopped a speeding bullet from penetrating Hutter's body, but it did lead to a series of events that showed her that the supposedly "harmless" lump in her breast was actually a very large, very aggressive, cancerous tumor.

In fact, the harmless lump that doctors thought was the size of a golf ball was actually a cancerous tumor the size of a baseball.

In addition, Hutter and her doctors learned that the cancer in the lump had already spread outside the breast to the lymph nodes in her armpit.

"The cancer was out of control when it was finally detected and I feel very lucky to be alive," said Hutter, who had a mastectomy only six days after doctors finally diagnosed her cancer.

A mastectomy is the biggest, most invasive surgery a woman can have for breast cancer.

The vest played a surprising role in revealing Hutter's cancer only because it began to irritate her chest when she was wearing it while working the road.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 15](#)



## EOD assists in removal of large amount of explosives in Yuma

Several officers from DPS' Explosives Ordinance Disposal (EOD) Unit assisted the Yuma Police Department on May 23 at a residence in Yuma where a large number of dangerous explosives were located.

According to the DPS Duty Log, a man inside the residence had committed suicide.

Prior to committing suicide, however, the Duty Log reported, that the man had attached about 2.5 pounds of C-4 explosives and two pounds of "Flex-Ex" explosives to his body.

In addition, officers also located several other explosive devices in a bedroom.

Several surrounding residential blocks were evacuated after officers located items that included 50 pounds of fireworks, 32 pounds of smokeless black powder, a live illumination grenade, a live M-18 smoke gre-

nade, several blasting caps, and four M-142 multi-purpose firing devices (ie: booby traps).

Upon arrival in Yuma, the EOD Unit assisted a U.S. Marine Corps EOD Unit in the delicate process of removing the explosives from the man's home. They also helped clear two sheds located in the man's back yard.

DPS EOD Officer Miguel Renteria said many of the explosives were removed from the home without using much of the unit's sophisticated anti-bomb equipment because almost everything in the home was easily recognizable and in plain view.

Renteria also said that about 99 percent of the explosives found in the residence were located in the deceased man's bedroom.

In addition to the explosives, Renteria said officers removed several shotguns and

assault rifles from the man's bedroom along with thousands of rounds of various ammunition.

Renteria said that the man's neighbors and officers on scene were surprised at the large number of explosive devices found in the residence.

Renteria said investigators were looking into the possibility that the explosives were stolen from a military base.

Five days after the explosives were found, Yuma authorities told reporters that there was no evidence suggesting the man planned to use the explosives to attack anything or anyone outside of his home. In addition, it was learned that the man had apparently never served in the military.

The investigation, being conducted by the FBI, was still under way in late June.

## DPS officers arrest murder suspect during I-10 traffic stop

After DPS Highway Patrol Officers Jeromy Neumann and Chad Hinderliter stopped the driver of a reported stolen vehicle, they were in for a surprise.

First, the driver told the Quartzsite-based officers that he was glad to see them. Secondly, after this novel greeting, they confirmed their suspicions that the motorist they stopped on I-10 the evening of May 27 was the suspect wanted for the murder of a man in the Los Angeles area earlier that day.

"He was totally compliant after we stopped him," Neumann said of the 47-year-old homicide suspect they arrested. "I certainly don't know why he was glad to see us."

Neumann said the murder and "carjacking" were separate incidents and that they were aware that the suspect might be heading their way. "First, he shot somebody and then later he carjacked the car and apparently headed east," Neumann said. "I am not certain why he shot the victim, although I it is believed to be gang-related."

Neumann said the suspect's demise began about 10 miles from the Arizona-California state line. "When I first saw him, he was going only about 10 mph and was all over the road," Neumann said. "After we stopped him, he told us how glad he was to see us and denied that the car was stolen. We ar-

rested him on suspicion of DUI and took him to the Quartzsite police station."

Eventually, the suspect, who also reportedly pistol-whipped the victim after fatally shooting him, was transferred to the La Paz County jail in Parker where he awaited his return to Los Angeles to face homicide and auto-theft charges.

Neumann said the man had a bloody, swollen right hand that he said he suffered in a fight. "Although, he denied killing any one, he did admit to being under the influence of alcohol and drugs when we arrested him," Neumann said, adding that the man was unarmed when apprehended.

## Following his arrest, this motorist may need 'John' to double as a bondsman

Renting a vehicle from "John" at a local convenience store. Does that sound suspicious?

It certainly did to DPS Highway Patrol Officers Kevin McNichols and Howard Moore.

On June 5, McNichols was on his way to court in Nogales when fellow Officer Howard Moore was dispatched to an accident without injuries at the Canoa rest area, about 20 miles south of Tucson on Interstate 19.

Since he was nearby, McNichols stopped to "let the folks know that Officer Moore was en route to take the collision report." While talking to these "folks," McNichols said he noticed that the door to a 1998 Ford pickup truck had the lock "punched."

McNichols then started talking to one of the occupants and during the conversation learned that the truck was "rented" from "John at a Circle K" for about \$300 and that the two buddies were on their way to Mexico to purchase a piñata and candy for about \$65.

After Moore arrived, McNichols said the two officers found an insurance paper inside the vehicle. Because departmental computer systems were down, a Tucson-based DPS dispatcher called an insurance agent who confirmed that the vehicle had been stolen in Phoenix the day before.

The two were arrested and taken straight to jail. There was no Circle K on the way where they might find a bondsman named "John."

## S.R. 95 crash kills 5

Five people, including a 7½-month pregnant woman, lost their lives in a head-on collision on S.R. 95 about five miles south of Quartzsite May 22.

DPS Officer Christopher Hecht said the accident occurred when a northbound 1992 GMC van driven by Louis Apodaca, 58, of Yuma, crossed into the southbound lane. In an effort to avoid the oncoming van, Porfirio Moreno, also of Yuma, steered the tractor trailer rig into the northbound lane. However, Apodaca crossed back into the northbound lane where the two vehicles collided.

Apodaca was killed as were four of his passengers, all residents of Ixtlahuaca, Mexico. Four of the victims died at the scene while the expectant mother died in surgery at a hospital in Parker. Neither the truck driver nor his passenger were injured in the collision, Hecht said.

## Route 66 Fun Run proves to be historical moment for DPS

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Royal Mann, a 4-year law enforcement veteran assigned to Kingman, recently completed the world-famous Route 66 Fun Run behind the wheel of the Department's customized 1992 Camaro patrol vehicle.

When Mann crossed the finish line in the 140-mile annual event, it marked the first time that a DPS officer has completed the Fun Run in a DPS patrol vehicle.

First conducted in 1988, the annual Fun Run attracts people from throughout the U.S. and many foreign countries.

The three-day event, staged each year during the first weekend in May, begins in Seligman and travels 140 miles west on Historic Route 66 to Topock/Golden Shores.

The event, open to all street legal vehicles, has become extremely popular because participants get to peek into the past of historic Route 66 and absorb the spirit of this designated Arizona scenic road.

During the event, the legendary roadway and the communities along it become reborn with heavy traffic, street dancing, barbecues, music, and unique 66 sightseeing.

This year, Mann said that more than 500 vehicles were registered in the Fun Run, many of which were customized and historic.

Mann decided to participate in the event this year because he loves cars and has always desired to participate in the Fun Run. He also thought participating in the "run" would provide the Department with some good public relations opportunities, especially if he received approval to drive DPS' customized 1992 Camaro in the event.

The Camaro has captured the attention of young and old drivers alike ever since 17 Flagstaff-area businesses donated services and materials to have the old DPS patrol vehicle restored and customized in 1999.

Mann eventually received approval to use the patrol car and began preparing for his trip. As soon as he arrived in Seligman to begin the run, the Camaro became an instant hit.

"Several people who would never really want to talk to a Highway Patrol officer approached me to talk about the car," Mann said. "It was a great conversation starter."

Because so many people approached the officer throughout the 3-day journey, Mann was able to talk about the Department's manpower and budget problems. He garnered support from many who wondered what they could do to help.

At a special car show held during the Fun Run, the Camaro received even more attention when it was judged and awarded first place in the "best flames" category. The



### Historic Finish

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Royal Mann crosses the finish line of the Route 66 Fun Run behind the wheel of the Department's customized 1992 Camaro patrol vehicle. Upon completing the 140-mile event, Mann became the first DPS officer to participate in the Fun Run in a DPS patrol car. First held in 1988, the annual Fun Run attracts people from throughout the U.S. and many foreign countries.

Camaro has unique blue flames racing across its frong fenders and hood.

From the start to finish, Mann estimates that his picture was taken with the Camaro more than 100 times. He was also interviewed and filmed by a group of video journalists who were covering the event.

The Route 66 Association, which is the group in charge of the "Fun Run", told Mann they would love to have him participate in the event again next year. Mann said he plans on doing so, possibly behind the wheel of an old Plymouth DPS patrol car or even the Department's Model A Ford.

## DPS at a Glance

It was an eventful senior year at Wickenburg High School for Michael Macias Jr., son of DPS Highway Patrol Officer Mike Macias.

Macias Jr., who graduated fourth in his class, was awarded 11 scholarships and will attend Arizona State University where he has been accepted into the school's engineering program.

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Officer Andy Swann was reelected as president of the Associated Highway Patrolmen of Arizona, defeating his opponent Sgt. Bill Whalen. The votes were tallied prior to the Association's May 21 meeting in Phoenix.

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The annual fall DPS craft show is scheduled for Oct. 2 at DPS headquarters.

Vendor price will be \$20 per table. For additional information, contact Sharon Wallig at ext. 2230.

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Thanks to a resolution passed by the

state legislature, Arizona is now a "Golden Rule" state.

In fact, it's the only such state in the country that can make such a claim.

On May 13, Secretary of State Jan Brewer held a ceremony to "sign" a legislative resolution declaring Arizona to be a Golden Rule state. The resolution urges Arizonans "To treat others the way we would like to be treated."

Such resolutions merely express the intent of lawmakers and don't require a signature from the governor.

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Former Arizona Supreme Court Justice James Duke Cameron died May 23 in Phoenix at the age of 78.

He was elected to the Arizona Supreme Court in 1971 and served there until retiring in 1992. He is credited with allowing cameras into the courtroom and for playing a major role in the revision of the Supreme Court's rules for state courts.



### Not just a Christmas Tree

Police Communications Supervisor Jean Denman, a DPS employee since 1979, stands in her office next to her famous -- and sometimes infamous -- "holiday tree." Denman, who is assigned to Phoenix OpComm, lavishly decorates the tree to correspond with almost every major holiday, not just Christmas. Besides basic holidays, such as the Fourth of July, Denman also decorates the tree to correspond with events such as Mardi Gras, National Dispatcher's Week and employee weddings.

### Retiree health insurance open enrollment starts in August

DPS retirees with health insurance through the Arizona Department of Administration's (ADOA) Saguaro Program (CIGNA), should begin receiving "open enrollment" notices.

Open enrollment begins Aug. 18 and continues through Sept. 12. This year, DPS has been approved to assist its retirees in the open enrollment process.

"The details are not yet firm, but it is hoped that each district office plus Phoenix headquarters will be able to provide this assistance," said Betty Gallery, executive assistant with the Highway Patrol Division who also works closely with the Coalition of DPS Retirees.

"If you do not need to change your insurance program in any way, you will not need to do a thing to continue your coverage as it is now. New premium charts should be available soon if you haven't already received them."

### Educational officers from 15 states attend DPS workshop

Some 53 state law enforcement officers from 14 states converged in Tempe in early June for the 36<sup>th</sup> annual Uniformed Safety Education Officer's Workshop (USEOW).

The week-long workshop, hosted by DPS at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel, is conducted annually so that state law enforcement officers who serve as public safety education officers have an opportunity to network with each other.

DPS Sgt. Mike Bonin, who helped organize this year's workshop, said officers attending the workshop are encouraged to share information on safety programs and public service announcements (PSAs) they have implemented or launched in their states.

If officers are having success with a particular safety program and PSA in their state, Bonin said the workshop also allows them the opportunity to present the program and PSA to those attending the event.

"When an agency presents their program and PSA at the workshop, other agencies can glean ideas from them or even modify them for use in their own states," Bonin said.

At the end of the workshop, Bonin said each agency's safety presentation and PSA are judged and the agencies with the best presentations and PSA's receive awards.

This year's judges awarded first place in the PSA competition to the Texas Department of Public Safety. The creative and unique PSA aired by the Texas DPS was about the importance of wearing seatbelts. Judges awarded first place in the Safety Presentation competition to the Mississippi Highway Patrol. The catchy presentation given by the Mississippi Highway Patrol targeted the dangers of aggressive driving.

Speakers at the opening ceremonies this year included Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) Director Richard Fimbres and DPS Agency Support Division Assistant Director Rod Covey.

### 91 percent of motorists admit to dangerous driving habits

Ninety-one percent of this nation's motorists admit to speeding, eating, using cell phones or reading while driving during the past six months, according to a poll released in May by Volvo Cars of North America, AAA and Partners for Highway Safety.

Speeders made up 73 percent while 59 percent admitted to eating while driving. Thirty-seven percent used a cell phone; 28 percent wore no seat belt; 26 percent used no signal when turning; and 14 percent admitted to reading while driving.

The majority of polled drivers also said others on the road were more dangerous drivers than they were.

### Facilities ...

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6](#)

square feet of office space.

Tornambe said occupants would include personnel from the Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations and Operational Communications. The renovated headquarters building would also be home to Fleet, Facilities and Telecommunications personnel assigned to the Tucson area. Additionally, it also would allow for the expansion of a physical fitness training area and the establishment of a canine facility.



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## Letters

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**Dear Director Garrett:**

I recently had the privilege of visiting your beautiful state. I left Wisconsin and arrived in Phoenix to babysit my two granddaughters, ages 1 and 3, while my daughter and son-in-law took a brief vacation.

I was en route to the airport on May 15 to pick up my husband who was to be a co-babysitter. On I-10, near exit 51, I realized that I had blown a tire. I pulled over several lanes and parked.

I knew no one in Arizona and had driven very little in the area. I didn't know any repair services so I called 9-1-1 who put me in touch with the Highway Patrol. Before long, a state trooper arrived who suggested that I get the children out of the car and wait on a nearby hill. Then Steve Pemberton, a roadside motorist assistant, arrived. He quietly and efficiently changed the tire. I offered to pay him for a job that was priceless to me, but he refused and told me it was a service of DPS. I was overwhelmed.

I cannot tell you how much this meant to me. I truly don't believe other states have this wonderful service. When I tell this story, people are amazed that it was handled so well. Thank you, DPS, and especially Steve Pemberton.

**Carol Grover  
Kohler, Wisc.**

**Dear Director Garrett:**

It is our great pleasure to commend Highway Patrol Officer Sabrina Smith of Casa Grande for her assistance April 21 when we were traveling from Tucson to Phoenix.

She acted with efficiency, skill, resourcefulness and kindness during a roadside assist on I-10 when a tire separated, crippling our vehicle. It was dark and frightening to be stalled on such a high-speed freeway. Officer Smith found us and took charge of getting our vehicle back on the road.

On a hunch, Officer Smith thankfully decided to check on our progress and found us stalled again with a bad spare. She waited with us until a tow truck arrived.

Officer Smith was a great comfort to us as we endured this unexpected and stressful ordeal. She is a credit to the uniform and to all who work in law enforcement. Her family and co-workers should be very proud of her as an officer who exemplifies the finest qualities in accomplishing her duties while being thoughtful and compassionate toward those needing help.

Thank you for choosing such fine people to serve in the Highway Patrol and for the

excellence of training they are given.

**Roger A. Hill  
Mesa**

**Dear Director Garrett:**

On April 28, our fire district was dispatched to an "ill man" at the Burnt Wells Rest Area, west on I-10 at MP 86. While en route, we were advised that "DPS was on scene and this is a full code."

Upon arrival, the patient, an 84-year-old male, was in full cardiac arrest, and it was noted that proper basic life support measures were being taken by the DPS officers. Our unit assumed patient care, and after medications and defibrillation, the patient was resuscitated to a pulsing heart rhythm prior to being air-lifted to a Phoenix-area hospital.

It was relayed to me by our paramedic captain that although the outcome of this patient remains questionable, any chance at resuscitation would have been nullified had it not been for the skills of these officers.

On behalf of myself, Capt. Morris, and the crew of Engine 371, we commend these officers for their actions. It was a pleasure to work with them.

**Chief Randal C. Long  
Harquahala Fire District**

**Dear Director Garrett:**

I express my appreciation to you and your Department for the assistance provided to our investigators May 11. Our officers were investigating a homicide in a rocky, wooded area located within the City of Prescott.

There was a need to take aerial photographs of the crime scene, as without photos there would be no way to adequately depict it. A call was placed to your dispatch center in Flagstaff. They immediately connected us with the people who could arrange for a DPS helicopter to respond. In an hour, we had a helicopter crew landing near our scene.

Your officers were very professional and worked diligently with our detectives in surveying the crime scene from above.

This is a very real and necessary service that we can only obtain from this kind of tremendous cooperation. Please pass on my personal thanks to those who helped arrange for the use of your helicopter and crew. They were a fantastic.

**Chief Robert Reed  
Prescott Police Department**

**Dear Col. Beasley**

Thank you for the support we received

while the NASA recovery team was at DPS. We could not have completed our Columbia recovery effort without support from you and your staff. Our mission was difficult and with your help, we were able to complete it.

Use of your Emergency Operations Center, air assets and cooperation from your officers allowed us to focus on the job at hand.

Special thanks to all officers and support staff who helped us finish our mission. The dedication and support of your officers was outstanding. Special thanks to yourself; Commanders Jeff Resler, Jeff Raynor and Dave Witter; Sgt. Sandy Slowik; Detectives Bill Whalen and Robert Wolford; and DPS civilians Sharon Nicholson and Barbara Paris.

**Tassos Abadiotakis  
NASA Vehicle Manager**

**Dear Director Garrett:**

I would like to thank DPS, especially Criminalists Todd Wittard and Dawn Sy, for assisting our detective in the processing of a vehicle used in an attempted second-degree murder. The victim, a 17-year-old girl, was intentionally run over, dragged under the vehicle for about 100 feet, and then left for dead along the road by her ex-boyfriend.

Your criminalists took the time to instruct our detective on how to look for and collect the trace evidence necessary for prosecution.

The cooperation and assistance that we received from DPS and Lt Larry Scarber, District 11 commander, has always been outstanding. As a small agency with limited resources, we truly appreciate it.

**Chief David Mullin  
Globe Police Department**

**Dear Director Garrett:**

In April 2001, Union Pacific Railroad police requested assistance from GITEM in regards to graffiti being painted on railroad cars. The railroad had several incidents resulting in thousands of dollars in damage.

DPS Detective Greg King helped us investigate these incidents. Officer King was very persistent in his investigation. He was a thorough investigator, and he always conducted himself in a professional manner.

This investigation resulted in a conviction and order of restitution. Detective King's involvement is directly related to this positive outcome.

**Lt. Willis Brown  
Union Pacific Railroad PD**



## Who Is She?

This young girl was quite shy and serious when she posed for her first "school days" photo. Who is this person who today is employed at DPS? Guess correctly and win either a denim or polo shirt courtesy of the Associated Highway Patrolmen of Arizona.

Interdepartmental e-mail entries should be addressed to Art Coughanour, badge no. 3131. Please remember to include your badge number with your entry.

Internet entries:  
[acoughanour@dps.state.az.us](mailto:acoughanour@dps.state.az.us)

Interdepartmental mail:  
 The Digest, mail drop 1200

Snail mail:  
 The Digest  
 Arizona DPS  
 P.O. Box 6638  
 Phoenix, AZ 85005

Winner of the May contest was Debbie James, an evidence custodian with Property and Evidence in Phoenix. Debbie was one of 38 to correctly identify Patt McCusker as the young girl with a smile.

The 38 correct entries was the most since the contest debut in January 2001. A drawing determined the winner.

## Dispatcher, Air Rescue combine efforts to rush Mesa man to Tucson for his new heart, lungs

Sunday, May 18, wasn't a typical day for this Phoenix-based Air Rescue crew.

The eventful day began when Mesa resident Bob Medurski, 39, called DPS requesting a Highway Patrol escort from Phoenix to Tucson for a medical emergency.

The DPS dispatcher who received the call, Sheila Kyer, learned that Medurski had been on a waiting list for two years to receive a heart and lung transplant.

Kyer also discovered that Medurski's special transplant pager had gone off indicating that the needed organs had just become available and that he needed to quickly get from Mesa to the University Medical Center in Tucson.

In fact, Kyer was also informed that if Medurski didn't get to the hospital in Tucson within two hours, his potentially life-saving transplants could not take place.

Medurski had initially called DPS hoping to get a Highway Patrol escort, but Kyer told him she could possibly provide him with an even faster, safer way of getting to Tucson. After making several calls and receiving authorization, she contacted Central Air Rescue and told the DPS helicopter crew – DPS Pilot Ron Banning, DPS Paramedic Dan Millon, and Phoenix Fire Paramedic Ricky Garner – of this important assignment.

Once informed of their mission, the DPS helicopter crew immediately picked Medurski up in Chandler and flew him to the University Medical Center in Tucson.

The flight only took about an hour so Medurski was at the hospital with time to spare. He later successfully underwent the heart/lung transplant and was doing well several weeks after surgery.

During a telephone conversation,

Medurski said, "Give the people in Air Rescue and the dispatcher my deepest, heartfelt thanks. They're great!"

Two years ago, Central Air Rescue transported a woman who needed a heart transplant from Phoenix to Tucson. The woman was stuck in rush-hour traffic in Phoenix and DPS dispatchers gave the woman instructions on how to exit the freeway and drive to the DPS state headquarters building.

The DPS helicopter then met the woman at the headquarters building and flew her to Tucson just in time for her lifesaving operation.

## Tucson officer suffers fatal wound in shooting

A 40-year old Tucson police officer was fatally shot May 26 after pursuing a man involved in an earlier hit-and-run collision in midtown Tucson.

Officer Patrick K. Hardesty, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who had been a Tucson policeman for only 19 months, was the first Tucson police officer to be killed in the line of duty in the past 21 years.

The suspect in the shooting, John Montenegro Cruz, 33, was arrested a short time later and was charged with first-degree murder.

A Tucson PD spokesman said Hardesty and another officer had responded to the collision where they learned Cruz had fled on foot. The officers found the man outside a nearby residence. After receiving permission to return to his car, Cruz again bolted with Hardesty pursuing on foot. Hardesty was shot when he cornered the man at a nearby home.

## Capitol Police transfer placed on hold

An initiative to bring Capital Police under the operational umbrella of DPS has stalled for the time being.

DPS Major Deston Coleman, who was to oversee the transfer of the police force to DPS if it took place, said the state legislature decided not to include the transfer of responsibilities as part of this year's legislation.

In lieu of transferring Capitol Police to DPS at this time, however, Coleman said a study group overseen by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) is going to be assembled to help determine if the transfer should be considered next year.

Coleman, chief of staff of the Highway

Patrol Division, said DPS personnel will be involved in the study group when it is formed.

Capitol Police is a division within the state Department of Administration (DOA) that mainly provides security and police services at the state capitol complex.

Capitol Police is headquartered in the basement of the state capitol. All of its sworn officers are certified by the Arizona Peace Officers Standards and Training (AZ POST) board.

Capitol Police also operates a communications center that monitors activities in and around state buildings in Phoenix and Tucson.

## Breast cancer can also be just as dangerous for males

While most women understand that they may develop breast cancer, it is fewer men who recognize that they could develop the same cancer.

The occurrence of breast cancer in men is rare but it is capable of developing in the slight amount of breast tissue men have beneath their nipples. Although rare, the CancerBACKUP web site notes, it more of-

ten occurs in men older than 60.

Those men who are at a higher-than-normal risk of breast cancer include those who have a close family history of the disease, or a relative younger than 40 diagnosed with the disease, or those who have a family history of ovary or colon cancer, the report points out.

Diagnosis, the report says, may be

through needle aspiration or biopsy, ultrasound, or mammogram, adding that treatment may require surgery, hormone therapy, chemotherapy, or radiation.

More detailed information is available at [www.cancerbacup.org.uk/info/male-breast](http://www.cancerbacup.org.uk/info/male-breast). Additional information on breast cancer is also available at [www.cancerbacup.org.uk](http://www.cancerbacup.org.uk).

## Detecting cancer ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Komen Foundation's Web site, [www.komen.org/bci/abc](http://www.komen.org/bci/abc).

Generally, the earlier the detection and subsequent treatment, the greater the chance for successful treatment.

Detection may come from monthly breast self-exams, a clinical breast exam, or a mammogram.

The Komen Foundation recommends "monthly breast self-examinations beginning at age 20," noting that this type of exam, done regularly, will help a woman recognize changes in her breasts.

The Foundation also recommends a clinical exam by a doctor, nurse practitioner or other trained medical personnel "every three years beginning at age 20, and annually after age 40."

The clinical exam may be more effective for younger women because of their higher breast density, the report notes.

The Foundation additionally recommends a mammogram yearly beginning at age 40, explaining that mammography is more effective in locating lumps which are too small to be felt in women ages 50 or older and perhaps in women as young as 40.

The report notes that regular screening is especially important for women in the high-risk category, that is women who have a personal or family history of breast cancer, who have been exposed to high levels of ionizing radiation in youth, or who have either of two gene mutations which have been associated with high cancer occurrence.

## Sterkenburg ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

School in Eloy, worked for the post office in Eloy and, later in Phoenix, as a route salesman for Holsum Bakery. At one time, he was also employed as a flagger for crop dust-ers in the Eloy area.

Lt. Sterkenburg is survived by his wife, Pat; son, Greg; daughters, Relynn and Rhonda; brothers, Jim and Jack; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

## Hutter ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Her frustration with the lump reached a critical level when it distracted her during a dangerous pursuit.

"On my next day off after the pursuit, I went to the doctor and said, 'I know the lump is not cancer, you told me it is not cancer, but I have to have it removed because it is effecting the way I do my job.'"

Hutter's request to finally have the lump surgically removed led to yet another mammogram. It, too, showed that she did not have breast cancer. Yet, she still wanted the lump surgically removed so that she could continue working without distraction.

Her final request to have the lump removed led to an ultrasound and a biopsy. It was those tests that yielded the frightening, shocking results.

***"I guess bullet-proof vests save lives in more ways than one," retired DPS Sgt. Shirley Hutter.***

Hutter said she feels very lucky to be alive after learning about her cancer because she had been living with it for such a long period of time.

Thankfully, she had completed almost 19 years of employment as an officer with DPS when her cancer was detected and she was able to take normal retirement.

Her substantial sick leave and vacation leave balances actually carried her to the 20-year mark with the agency during the early stages of her cancer treatment.

"I always tell young officers never to abuse their sick leave because the hours they accumulate over the years could really save them if they ever get sick," Hutter said. "My sick leave surely saved me because it carried me for many, many months."

Hutter definitely needed sick leave because she began aggressive cancer treatments just days after her cancer was diagnosed. Following her mastectomy, Hutter began a very aggressive form of chemotherapy. After that, she underwent five

weeks of heavy radiation treatments. About a year after that, she underwent another mastectomy to remove her second breast.

After her health stabilized, she also underwent reconstructive surgery on her breasts and had tissue transplants to repair the damage that radiation treatments had caused on her chest.

Today, more than three years after her cancer was diagnosed, Hutter said she is doing very well and feeling great. Despite an immune system that has been slightly weakened by her cancer treatments, Hutter is as active as she has ever been. She plays golf regularly and is enjoying an active lifestyle at her new retirement home at a country club in Prescott. She lives at the home with her husband, Ron, who is also retired.

To help ensure that her cancer does not come back, Hutter regularly undergoes a variety of medical tests, including CAT scans, blood work, ultrasounds, chest x-rays, and even MRI's.

If she had any advice for other women who have found lumps in their breasts, it is to have biopsy tests performed on the lumps so that doctors can be certain whether the lumps are cancerous.

"A biopsy is the only way you can determine for sure whether or not a lump is cancerous," said Hutter, adding that sometimes even the most obvious breast lumps will not show up on a basic mammogram test.

Hutter also advises women to demand that the appropriate medical tests be completed on them when they go to visit their doctors.

She said women must demand to have the appropriate medical tests completed because doctors will often try to talk women out of such tests due to high costs and health insurance issues.

Such was the case for Hutter. Her initial doctor never scheduled her for more accurate tests until she finally demanded them. Thanks to the bulletproof vest that ultimately forced her to demand more tests, it wasn't too late.

"I guess bulletproof vests save lives in more ways than one," Hutter said.



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## Down the Highways

### July 1953

On July 27, more than 100 lawmen, including 60 Arizona Highway Patrolmen, swooped down on a religious cult community in northwestern Arizona in a pre-dawn raid and arrested most of the adults living in the Short Creek area.

Warrants were served on 36 men and 86 women, all members of the United Effort religious cult. Those arrested were charged with rape, polygamy, bigamy and adultery. Community members were also charged with violating Arizona's corporation laws and misappropriation of school funds.

### July 1968

Arizona Highway Patrol Supt. James J. Hegarty announced the promotions of five lieutenants to captain, effective Aug. 1.

Promoted to captain were Larry Beddome, William Foster, Jim Phillips, Harley Thompson and Clarence Tyra.

Hegarty also promoted Richard E. Caron, Gerald Mitchell and Jimmy Williams to sergeant. Earlier in the month, Hegarty promoted William Hanger from sergeant to lieutenant.

### July 1973

While investigating an accident near Chandler July 25, DPS Officer Roy Abbott had his patrol car stolen by a man who had just left a nearby bar.

Abbott was working the accident with Chandler Police Sgt. Bobby Joe Harris when they saw the man take off in Abbott's patrol car. Abbott and Harris pursued the suspect in a Chandler police car, but to no avail.

About an hour later, Sacaton police officers radioed that they had found the car on its roof with the suspect pinned inside. A wrecker was called to the scene and when the two trucks raised the vehicle, the suspect grabbed a shotgun and fired a shot.

The vehicle was then lowered and the suspect fired two more rounds.

Sacaton police and DPS officers returned fire before rushing the vehicle and overpowering the suspect.

### July 1978

On the morning of July 30, Gary Tison and Randy Greenawalt, with the aid of Tison's three sons, escaped from the Arizona State Prison in Florence setting off the biggest manhunt in state history.

The search lasted 13 days before ending during the early-morning hours of Aug. 11 on a back road 23 miles south of Casa Grande. During those 13 days, the Tison Gang killed six people before the manhunt came to an end amid gunfire near the small Arizona town of Chuichu.

The Tison gang tried to shoot it out with law enforcement officers after their stolen van crashed through a road block. Tison's son, Donald, was killed during the brief gun battle.

During the exchange of gunfire, Tison was able to escape into the surrounding desert only to die a painful death from exposure. His decomposing body was found 11 days later in a wash.

### July 1983

"Operation Holiday," a public information program designed by DPS Public Information Officer Art Coughanour, was awarded first place in the 1983 American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators regional public affairs competition. It marked the third straight year that DPS captured the award.

In 1982, Coughanour was awarded first place for "Innocent Children," a public service announcement concerning DUI. In 1981, Officer Marty Dangel captured the award for various children-orientated educational programs.

### July 1988

A Phoenix man was in custody for attempted murder after he fired on DPS Highway Patrolman Bob Martin during a July 21 pursuit.

The chase began when a Maricopa County Sheriff's deputy reported the suspect vehicle was being driven erratically along Shea Boulevard. The deputy could not get the driver to stop and radioed for assistance from DPS.

During the subsequent 10-mile pursuit on S.R. 87, DPS Officer Bob Martin pulled in front of the truck that was attempting to elude police. The 24-year-old driver fired at Martin with a mini-14 semi-automatic rifle. A bullet went through Martin's rear window but the officer was not hit.

DPS Sgt. Dan Ryan, who had joined the chase, ended the pursuit by firing his shotgun into the windshield of the suspect's vehicle. The suspect's face was struck by flying glass and he surrendered, the Duty Office reported.

### July 1993

A reserve sergeant became the 20<sup>th</sup> DPS officer and the Department's first reservist to die in the line of duty when he was struck by a vehicle July 3 about 20 miles south of Phoenix.

DPS Reserve Sgt. Mark M. Dryer, 35, died several hours later in Phoenix following surgery at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center. He was flown from the Interstate-10 accident scene to the Phoenix hospital by helicopter.

More than 300 officers, friends and family members attended the officer's July 8 funeral at Central United Methodist Church in Phoenix. Eulogies were presented during the service by Arizona Gov. Fife Symington and DPS Sgt. Rick Knight.